

# HAIRBREADTH HARRY THE PURLOINED PAY ENVELOPE

by C.W. KAHLES

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OH, ISN'T THAT NICE! THE BEAUTIFUL BELINDA HAS HAD HER SALARY BOOSTED FROM EIGHT BUCKS PER TO EIGHT FIFTY. AND JUST WHEN SHE NEEDED THE MONEY MOST, TOO! HOW PROVIDENTIAL!



THE SIX O'CLOCK WHISTLE HASN'T BLOWN YET AND OUR HAPPY HEROINE CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET TO HER HOME TO SLIP AN EARFUL OF THE GLAD NEWS TO HER POOR OLD DAD WHO IS AN INVALID DEPENDING ON HER WAGES.



WITH A LIGHT HEART, SINGING AS THOUGH HER LITTLE EPIGLOTTIS WOULD BURST FOR JOY, THE GLADSOME DAMSEL TRIPPED LIGHTLY TO THE WASHROOM TO REMOVE THE GRIMY STAINS OF HER DAYS TOIL.



A DARK, DRAB, OMINOUS CLOUD NOW PASSES OVER OUR HAPPY TALE. YOU CAN BET YOUR GOLD TOOTH THAT THIS SINISTER DEAL WHICH RUDOLPH IS PUTTING OVER BODES ILL FOR SOMEBODY.



AT EXACTLY 13½ MINUTES PAST 6 (SHOWING THAT SHE MUST HAVE RUN ALL THE WAY HOME) THE RADIANT FORM OF BELINDA BURST THROUGH THE PORTALS OF HER NEAT COTTAGE TO UNLIMBER THE JOYFUL TIDINGS.



BUT THE NEXT MOMENT ABYSMAL GLOOM ENSHROUDED THEM!! THE PRECIOUS ENVELOPE WAS GONE!!!!



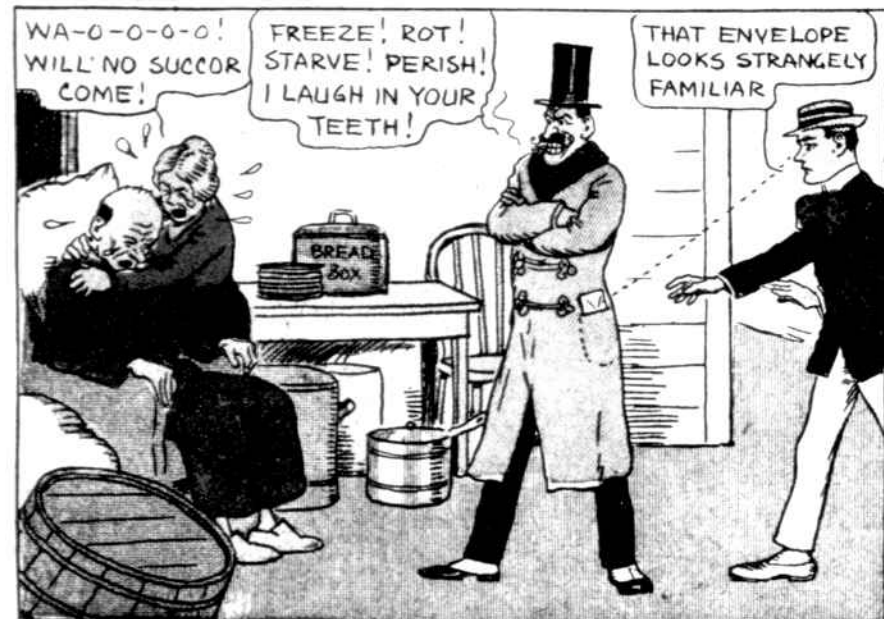
AND TO RUB IN THE AGONY HERE COMES THAT RUFFIAN, RUDOLPH, TO COLLECT THE RENT FOR THE COTTAGE HE HAD JUST BOUGHT. THE DEEP DYED DASTARDLINESS OF HIS PURPOSE IS NOW EVIDENT.



BUT THE HEARTRENDING PLEADINGS OF THE LOVELY BELINDA AVOIDED NAUGHT AGAINST THAT HARD HEARTED MONSTER! HE WAS AS ADAMANTINE AS THE NOODLE OF A COMIC ARTIST, AND THAT'S SOME ADAMANTINE.



WE'VE MET ALL KINDS OF BAD 'UNS IN OUR TIME BUT FOR PURE, UNALLOYED FIRST CLASS, 14 KARAT VILLAINY THIS TAKES THE IRON CROSS. OUR HEART BLEEDS FOR THE POOR OLD SICK GENT SHIVERING OUT IN THE COLD.



BOO! HOO! HOO! (THIS SOB STUFF IS GETTING TOO SAD FOR WORDS) SNIFF SNIFF! SNIFF! (EXCUSE THESE WEEPS) — BUT HERE'S OUR HERO WHO HAS JUST APPEARED ON THE SCENE UNAWARES. LET'S WAIT A BIT.



THE NEXT MOMENT THE ASPECT OF THE SITUATION TOOK A STARTLING TURN!!!



OH FINE! WIPE THOSE TEARS! EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT NOW! BELINDA HAS HER WAGES BACK, THE OLD GENT IS ALREADY PERKING UP, AND THE GUILTY PARTY NO DOUBT WILL BE PROPERLY PUNISHED.

